

Camp de Coetquidan was all that Camp Sevier was not, though it must be remarked here that Greenville, the city, did not share in the distaste felt for Sevier, the camp. The history pays tribute to the spirited hospitality of the people there. At Camp Coetquidan and the nearby city of Rennes, however, the men found the proper introduction to both artillery and French life. By August 22, the regiment was fully equipped and trained fit for any duty on any sector.

This duty came at once near Toul with the 89th Division at Ansonville, Hamonville, and Beaumont, first in defensive work against the Boche, and secondly in the drive on the St. Mihiel salient made by the American First Army. From September 12, through September 14, the regiment advanced continuously in support of the 89th Division. St. Mihiel a victory, they moved at once toward the Argonne, taking up position at the Bois de Brocourt September 22, and fighting continuously through October 7, with first the 37th (Ohio Division) and second the 32nd (Wisconsin-Michigan). Division.

Depleted of horses to the danger point, they moved their guns across to the plain of the Woevre and went into support of first the 79th Division and second the 33rd Division, fighting continuously till the armistice. After the armistice they marched thru Luxemburg into Germany as part of the Army of Occupation.

The preceding operations were not as simple as they appear on paper. But it is impossible to describe fully the obstacles of supply terrain, and enemy opposition that had to be overcome at each step of advance. Feeling tribute is paid to the poor dumb beasts slaughtered by thousands, by fire, gas, underfed and overwork. Instance after instance of personal and organization efficiency and courage is recalled, especially how on one occasion the regiment flatly refused to consider abandoning their guns should the Boche counterattack in mass, as then seemed likely. On another occasion, at Montfaucon, the regimental chaplain, Benjamin R. Lacy, organized a battery of captured German 77's and turned them on the enemy. Nor was this time of stress without consolations. A herd of cows was captured from the Germans, of which Majors Bulwinkle and Stern each took one. Major Stern's cow soon succumbed to the hazards of the campaign, but Major Bulwinkle's private dairy served through the campaign, daily "wearing her gas mask and four gallons of milk in alert position." She became a part of the Army of Occupation.

After many wanderings in Luxemburg, Germany, and northwestern France, however, the 113th F. A. finally came back to the 30th Division at Le Mans, where after "many delayed orders and ordered delays" they entrained for Brest, boarded the U. S. S. Santa Teresa, landed safely at. Newport News March 18, 1919, paraded in Raleigh March 23, and passed on via Camp Jackson to civies.

"With the last formalities duly attended to, the last bit of red tape adjusted, and hasty goodbyes spoken, the men of the regiment turned their faces homeward, and the One Hundred and Thirteenth Field Artillery ceased to exist, save in the hearts and memories of the splendid body of men who had made it a great fighting machine, a resourceful; courageous organization. Viewed from any angle, the One Hundred and Thirteenth Field Artillery was a great regiment, self-reliant and dependable because it was an aggregation of self-reliant and dependable men. No matter how trying the situation, the One Hundred and Thirteenth always stood, squarely and firmly on its own feet, was always able to take care of itself and lend a helping hand to less hardy outfits. It bore no stain upon its record. There were no reprimands from high authority, no complaints, no criticism to be explained away. It was a regiment of no regrets.

"The One Hundred and Thirteenth Field Artillery was seventy-eight days at the front. Eleven days of this time was spent in hiking from one sector to another. At no time, after August 23, 1918, up to Armistice Day was the regiment out of range of German artillery. The time spent in moving from one sector to another may well be counted active front line service, for the movement in every case skirted the American front lines.

"The regiment has the unique distinction of having served longer at the front than any other North Carolina organization. The War Department officially credits the 30th Division with fifty-six days of service in active sectors. Deducting the eleven days in which it was on the march and during which no fighting was done, the One Hundred and Thirteenth was occupying active sectors and actually firing sixty-seven days, or eleven days longer than the infantry unit of the 30th Division. Only two divisions, the First and the Third, are officially credited with longer service in active sectors than the One Hundred and Thirteenth experienced. Two divisions,